

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for recording an image by heating a thermal transfer type of ink ribbon with a thermal head and transferring the heated coloring material on a sheet-formed recording medium wound around a platen drum, said image recording apparatus comprising:

5 a tension switch means for switching tension of the ink ribbon to a larger value or a smaller value provided in the ribbon feed-out side, wherein said tension switch means is switched to a larger value when an image is to be recorded, and to a smaller value when the ribbon is to be positioned at its starting position;

10 a tension switch cam on a thermal head up/down cam shaft for driving the thermal head
wherein said tension switch means can be switched in synchronism to upward or downward
movement of the thermal head.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for recording an image by heating a thermal transfer type of ink ribbon with a thermal head and transferring the heated coloring material on a sheet-formed recording medium wound around a platen drum, said image recording apparatus comprising:

5 a tension switch means for switching tension of the ink ribbon to a larger value or a
smaller value provided in the ribbon feed-out side, wherein said tension switch means is
switched to a larger value when an image is to be recorded, and to a smaller value when the
ribbon is to be positioned at its starting position. The image recording apparatus of claim 6,
wherein said tension switch means comprises a main frictional clutch for controlling the tension
10 to the larger value in synchronism to up/down movement of the thermal head and a sub
frictional clutch for controlling the tension to the smaller value side.

9. (Currently Amended) The image recording apparatus of claim [[7]] 6, wherein said
tension switch means comprises a main frictional clutch for controlling the tension to the larger
value in synchronism to up/down movement of the thermal head and a sub frictional clutch for
controlling the tension to the smaller value side.

Claims 10 - 19 (Canceled)

20. (New) An image recording apparatus using a sheet-formed recording medium, the
apparatus comprising:

a platen drum for receiving the sheet-formed recording medium being wound around
said platen drum;

5 a thermal transfer type of ink ribbon;

a thermal head heating said thermal transfer type of ink ribbon and transferring heated

coloring material onto the sheet-formed recording medium wound around said platen drum;

10 a tension switch means for switching tension of said ink ribbon to a larger value or a smaller value provided in a ribbon feed-out side, wherein said tension switch means is switched to a larger value when an image is to be recorded, and to a smaller value when the ribbon is to be positioned at a starting position.